

Burns, Vanessa

From: Brisbois, Frederick W SIK [FBrisbois@SIKORSKY.COM]**Sent:** Sunday, February 27, 2011 11:02 PM**To:** AppropriationTestimony**Cc:** Brisbois, Frederick W SIK**Subject:** Testimony for Budget

Ladies / Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony for your consideration as you work to pass a budget that is in the best interests of the residents of Connecticut. I thank you for your service and appreciate the extensive thoughtfulness you must give to every aspect of the budget. Limited resources with unlimited needs.

My daughter was brain damaged at birth and we receive services for her funded by DDS administered by a private organization, SARA. As a father of a disabled child, with financial management experience in both the business and military sectors, I offer the following for your consideration:

Every minute of service provided by DDS funding for our daughter, Kathy, is priceless. As a result of these services, Kathy has learned that she can grow and contribute to society, not be a burden to it. The services provided by DDS are essential to helping Kathy and other residents with disabilities. I appreciate that you cannot make your financial decisions solely on emotional testimony, so I ask that you consider the **financial benefits** of the services provided by DDS. By helping people with disabilities to become more independent, we are investing in both their growth as individuals and the economic growth of our state. In financial terms, its equivalent to a long term investment. The obvious benefits are that the services help Kathy enjoy a rewarding and fulfilling life. The other benefit is the long term benefit to the state. The services available to Kathy have allowed her to grow, mature and to work in the community, contributing to the growth of area businesses. Kathy's ability to work afforded my wife and I the time to BOTH pursue careers. Without the services of DDS and SARA, it is most likely that only one of us would be able to work and contribute to the State's economy. By allowing both of us to pursue careers while developing Kathy's independence, we have also been able to assure that Kathy will be provided for after our passing without being dependent on state or federal support for lodging or subsistence.

As you formulate the State budget, I urge you to preserve the funding for DDS so that the citizens of Connecticut with disabilities retain their ability to contribute to the State's social and financial growth.

If there is anything I can do to help you with your daunting task, please do not hesitate to call upon me. Thank you for your time and consideration:

Fred Brisbois

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